

MINUTES OF THE
LEGISLATIVE, JUDICIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE

February 13, 1979
8:30 a.m.
Room 132
State Capitol Building
Tape Data: 7:2-4:0-432
Subject: Work Session

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Menahan at 8:30 a.m. Representative Wood and Representative Hand were present. Senator Lockrem was absent and Senator Thiessen was excused. Fiscal Analyst JanDee May was also present.

The meeting was a work session for making decisions on the Supreme Court program budgets.

SUPREME COURT
Court Operations

The committee discussed the Montana Reports. The FA recommends the Montana Reports be published in-house, however, by printing them in-house they would be printed with softbond covers rather than hardbond covers. The Justices requested the Reports be covered with hardbond covers because of the years of service they have received with the hardbond.

There is a \$72,000 difference in 1980 between the FA and the Budget Office. The Budget Office did not allow the modification requests but otherwise allowed everything as requested. This would make up the difference.

The major issues are the Montana Reports whether or not they would be printed by a private publisher with hardbond or in-house with softbond. Another item is the attorney who was hired with federal funds. The Supreme Court wants to continue this position on general fund.

For microfilming they received \$100,000 for the present biennium to microfilm territorial records. Some of this money was mis-spent last year. They request approximately \$112,000 for microfilming for the next biennium.

In relation to the information systems, they are requesting 2 FTE who were hired last year with federal funds. These positions were not recommended by the FA. The positions were specifically denied last session but were hired. The FA cannot see keeping the positions on fulltime now that the systems are up. The Budget Office does not recommend these positions.

They are requesting two automated record systems for the District Court and for the Clerk of the Court. The Budget Office funded the District Court automation.

The FA questions some of the amounts requested which could not be justified for the systems. The FA recommends funding of the District Court System for computer time and a terminal if it is needed.

Building rent would need to be added to the FA recommendation of \$3,621 in 1980 and \$3,825 for 1981.

Representative Hand made a motion to approve the FA recommendation with the following adjustments: adding \$30,000 each year for the Montana Reports, \$20,000 of which would be for printing of the reports and \$10,000 for the legal auditor; language included to state that if it is feasible to print the Montana Report in-house with softbond covers or as computer generated reports or by any other means than they will look into it and the savings made will revert into general fund; adding \$50,000 each year and line iteming the amount for microfilming the records; including the Assistant Supreme Court Justice which amounts to \$34,900 the first year and \$34,400 the second year. This motion was for current level.

All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

The committee did not recommend the management analyst or the systems analyst. They did not recommend the District Court System or the Judicial Information System because the systems and the FTE were started last biennium with federal funds and the committee did not want general funds to be picking up the expenses.

Boards and Commissions

The FA stated that the Boards and Commissions had a tremendous amount of training last year which was paid through federal funds. They are requesting general fund to continue the training.

The FA increased the general funding by 37%.

The program has transferred funds from personal services into contracted services for 1.5 FTE which were part-time positions.

The difference between the FA and the Budget Office is in training. The FA has recommended \$86,000 and the Budget Office has recommended \$124,000.

Representative Hand moved to appropriate \$100,000 a year to the Boards and Commissions. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

This appropriation would allow for some travel and training of the lower courts.

Law Library

The committee discussed the Law Library request for 2 1/2 additional FTE. The FA felt the majority of the work (75%) in the

cataloging of the library was done and if they needed the additional FTE it would be before and not now.

Representative Hand moved to approve the FA recommendation, adding one cataloguer with a salary of \$15,387 for 1980 and \$16,617 for 1981 and adding \$1,700 for 1980 and \$1,167 in 1981 for miscellaneous office equipment.

The motion passed unanimously.

District Court

The FA did not recommend the request for the 1 law clerk for summer help. The committee discussed the FTE.

The FA stated that by funding the law clerks through general fund the other district courts would be requesting clerks also. She questioned at what point the funding would stop for the clerks.

In operating expenses last year, the District Court received \$83,000 in federal funds. For travel, they are requesting \$85,000 and \$92,000. The FA is recommending \$60,000. Last year they expended \$80,000 in travel of which \$67,000 was general fund. Now they are requesting general funding to replace federal funding.

In contracted services, \$14,000 was spent in 1978, however, only \$8,000 was general fund.

The differences between the FA and the Budget Office are mainly in travel and contracted services.

Representative Hand made a motion to approve the FA recommendation, adding \$15,000 for travel.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectively submitted.

William Menahan

William Menahan, Chairman

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